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TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC KISSINGER

JANUARY 16, 1974

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON JANUARY 10 LENINGRAD INCIDENT

THE STATE PRESS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED A QUERY FROM SCRIPPS-HOWARD WITH RESPECT TO THE SCHORER INCIDENT IN LENINGRAD. IT RESPONDED THAT IT COULD NOT BE HELPFUL ON THIS AND HAD NO COMMENT. THE SCRIPPS-HOWARD MAN DID NOT INDICATE WHAT INFORMATION HE HAD OR VOLUNTEER HIS SOURCE.

AS I INDICATED EARLIER, THIS LINE SHOULD MAKE PLAIN TO THE SOVIETS THAT WE HAVE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SURFACING OR ENLARGEMENT OF THE STORY.

SCRIPPS-HOWARD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RUN WITH SOMETHING AND WE WILL EVENTUALLY NEED TO HAVE AN AGREED LINE ON HOW TO HANDLE QUERIES. ATTACHED IS A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DRAFTED BY STATE AND NSC FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I WOULD PROPOSE THAT WE HOLD TO THE NO COMMENT LINE AS LONG AS FEASIBLE TO DO SO.

QUESTION: WAS AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT BEATEN UP IN LENINGRAD ON JANUARY 10 AND WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT IT?

ANSWER: DAVID W. SCHORER, A VICE CONSUL ASSIGNED TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN LENINGRAD, WAS INVOLVED IN A SCUFFLE WITH SEVERAL MEN LATE IN THE AFTERNOON ON JANUARY 10. THIS OCCURRED WHILE HE WAS RETURNING FROM A ROUTINE CONSULAR VISIT TO A HOSPITAL.

QUESTION: WHY DO WE THINK THIS HAPPENED?

ANSWER: I CAN'T REALLY SPECULATE ON THAT.

QUESTION: HOW DID WE FIND OUT ABOUT THE INCIDENT?

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ANSWER: AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT, MR. SCHORER WAS TAKEN TO A SOVIET POLICE STATION FROM WHICH HE CONTACTED THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL.

QUESTION: WHERE IS MR. SCHORER NOW?

ANSWER: UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE RETURNED HOME FOR CONSULTATION AND HE IS NOW ON LEAVE.

QUESTION: WAS HE INJURED?

ANSWER: I WOULD BEST DESCRIBE IT AS BEING ROUGHED UP.

QUESTION: WHAT WERE HIS DUTIES AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND WHAT WERE THE CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST HIM, IF ANY?

ANSWER: MR. SCHORER PERFORMED NORMAL CONSULAR FUNCTIONS.

QUESTION: IS IT TRUE AND IS HE A MEMBER OF THE CIA?

ANSWER: HE IS A STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE AND IN OUR VIEW WAS NOT ENGAGED IN IMPROPER ACTIVITIES.

QUESTION: HAVE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THIS ENTIRE MATTER?

ANSWER: YES, WE HAVE.

QUESTION: HAS THIS EPISODE BEEN PROTESTED.

ANSWER: YES.

QUESTION: IS AN EPISODE SUCH AS THIS CONSONANT WITH THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE?

ANSWER: I WOULD NOT COMMENT OR SPECULATE ON THAT.

QUESTION: CAN YOU PUT US IN TOUCH WITH MR. SCHORER TO GET HIS VERSION OF THE FACTS.

ANSWER: NO, HE IS ON LEAVE.

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